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10/735,805	12/16/2003	Jun Fujimoto	402919/SOEI	2858

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LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD
700 THIRTEENTH ST. NW
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3960

EXAMINER	
YOO, JASSON H	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3714	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/735,805	FUJIMOTO, JUN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jasson H. Yoo	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *03 September 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *34-42* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *34-42* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 34 recites the limitation of “a first identification information detector." Then the claim recites “the card identification detector includes identification detectors." It is not clear if there’s a plurality of first identification information detectors or a single first identification information detector.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 34-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vuong (US 2002/0147042) in view of Meissner (US 5,779,546), and in view of Ghaem (US 5,381,137).

34. Vuong discloses a game management system for managing a game, which is played on a game table (Fig. 2) and employs a plurality of cards and a plurality of chips, the game management system (Fig. 1) comprising:

card identification tags (Fig. 5) identifying each of the plurality of cards, a respective card identification tag being located within each of the plurality of cards (paragraphs 58, 72);

chip identification tags identifying each of the plurality of chips, a respective chip identification tag being located within each of the plurality of chips (Fig. 6, paragraphs 62-63, 71);

a first identification information detector detecting card identification information recorded in the card identification information tag of each of the plurality of playing cards, the first identification information detector being located within the game table (paragraph 72);

a second identification information detector detecting chip identification information recorded in the chip identification tag of each of the plurality of chips, the second identification information detector being located within the gaming table (Vuong discloses the information detector detects the chip identification, paragraph 71. As illustrated in Fig. 12 and described paragraphs 71-72, the detector can detect both the card identification information and the chip identification information. Although two separate detectors are not specifically disclosed, it would have been obvious to modify the detector and have an additional detector for the chips and the cards since incorporating a second information detector is a mere duplication of parts. See *In re Harza*.

Furthermore, Figure 2 illustrates a plurality of positions 202 with a reader to detect the cards or chips. Thus any one of the detectors can be considered the first detector and the second detector.); and

a server managing means (120 in Fig. 1 in combination with 222 in Fig. 2) tracking of movement of the plurality of cards and of the plurality of chips during the game and results of the game played on the game table, in association with personal information the card identification information detected by the first identification information detector, and the chip identification information detected by the second identification information detector (Figs. 3, 4, paragraphs 39, 72), wherein

the first identification information detectors include identification detectors which are located proximate a dealer and a participant of the game (See Fig. 2).

Vuong further discloses the system detects individual playing card information (see abstract, paragraphs 10-11, 36-40) by detecting a tag disposed on each of the playing object (Fig. 5). The tags disposed on the playing cards are RFID tags (paragraph 39). Thus frequencies of the tags are used to detect the card information. Vuong also discloses detector comprises a transponder (paragraph 40). Thus the detector which incorporates a receiver detects echo waves of the RFID tags disposed on each of the playing cards using the transponder.

However, Vuong fails to teach the following:

a plurality of ID cards distributed to respective participants in the game and in which personal information identifying the respective participants in the

game is recorded, each ID card including a deposit checking unit for confirming betting value available for the perspective participant;

a card reader located within the game table for reading the personal information from the ID cards;

a keypad located at the game table for inputting a bet on the game based upon the value available to a respective participant and confirmed by the deposit checking unit; and

a plurality of tags identifying each of the plurality of playing cards, each of the card identification information tags of each playing cards include respective combination of resonant tags which are disposed on corresponding playing cards and transmit respective combinations of frequencies, and the specifics of detecting the combinations of frequencies transmitted from the resonant tags.

Nevertheless such modifications would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art.

Vuong discloses a game management system for managing a game as discussed above. In an analogous art to player monitoring systems, Meissner discloses a game management system comprising a plurality of player ID cards that is inserted to a card reader within the game table for reading personal information (cols. 4:14, 201c-207c in Fig. 2). The player ID card is used as a player-tracking card (tracks player game play, cols. 7:60-67), and as a deposit-checking unit (tracks player credits, cols. 6:28-33, 7:34-40, 7:64-8:7, 14:48-15:15). A keypad located at the gaming table (201a-207a in Fig. 2) is used for inputting a bet based upon the credit value associated with the player-tracking

card (cols. 4:35-67, 12:10-39). Meissner's ID card allows the casino to award player complimentary services more based on player game play more accurately (cols. 2:18-48, col. 7:60-67). Furthermore, including a deposit-checking unit within the ID card increases security from theft, and facilitates players to player at multiple gaming tables (col. 8:1-7, 14:51-59). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Vuong discloses a game management system and incorporate Messner's ID cards, card reader, and keypad, in order to provide complimentary services to qualified customers, increase security, and facilitate players to play at multiple gaming tables.

Vuong in view of Meissner significantly discloses the claimed invention as discussed above, but fails to teach a plurality of tags identifying each of the plurality of playing cards, and the specifics of the information detectors to detect the combinations of frequencies transmitted from the resonant tags. Nevertheless, using additional tags to provide a combination of echo waves is simply a duplication of parts. it would have been obvious to incorporate additional resonant tags in the playing cards since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. See In re Harza. Furthermore, the method of providing multiple resonant tags in a device, and detecting the combination of frequency transmitted from the multiple resonant tags is well known in the art. This is supported by Ghaem. Ghaem discloses a RF tagging system having a plurality of resonant tags (circuits 13 in Fig. 5). When the tag enters a detection zone, the system

determines the resonant frequency of each of the resonant tags (see summary). Thus using a plurality of resonant tags is known method of identifying articles. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to modify Vuong in view of Meissner's game management system and incorporate a plurality of resonant tags on the playing cards, since using a plurality of resonant tags is known method of identifying articles. When modifying Vuong in view of Meissner's game management system and incorporate a plurality of resonant tags, one of ordinary skilled in the art would also modify each identification detectors to recognize the plurality of resonant tags accordingly.

Vuong in view of Meissner and in view of Ghaem further discloses the following:

35. The game management system according to claim 34, wherein tracking of movement of the plurality of cards during of the game include information concerning the cards at a beginning of the game and movement histories of the cards during the game, and the results of the game include information concerning the cards left at an end of the game (Vuong, Figs 12 and paragraph 77).

36. The game management system according to claim 35, wherein the information concerning the cards at the beginning of the game includes kinds of the cards and number of the cards at the beginning of the game (Vuong, table 1, and paragraph 50).

37. The game management system according to claim 35, wherein the information concerning the cards remaining at the ending of the game includes kinds of the cards and number of the cards remaining at the ending of the game (Vuong discloses the cards remaining at the end of the game are compared according to the rules, paragraph 77. Each of the cards within the detection range is detected.).

38. The game management system according to claim 34, wherein the tracking of the movement of the chips during the game includes obtaining information concerning the chips bet upon beginning of the game and movement history of each of the chips during the game, and the results of the game include information concerning the chips remaining upon ending of the game (Vuong, discloses monitory chips at the beginning of the game, paragraph 71. Vuong, also discloses the bets and payout of bets are monitored in real-time, paragraph 77.).

39. The game management system according to claim 38, wherein the information concerning the chips bet at the beginning of the game includes kinds of the chips and number of the chips bet at the beginning of the game (Vuong, discloses the value of each chip is detected, paragraph 50. Vuong, also discloses the value of the stack of chips is also detected, paragraph 71. Thus the number of chips is inherently determined.).

40. The game management system according to claim 38, wherein the information concerning the chips remaining at the ending of the game includes kinds of the chips and number of the chips remaining at the ending of the game (see claims 39 and 38).

41. The game management system according to claim 34, wherein the results of the game include total remaining betting value at ending of the game (Vuong, paragraph 77).

42. The game management system according to claim 34, wherein the server detects fraud during the game, which is committed by a participant identified using the personal information, based on the tracking of the movement of the plurality of cards an of the plurality of chips and the results associated with the personal information of respective participants (Vuong, paragraph 89, Meisnner col. 14:39-50).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 34-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references discloses resonant tags with multiple variable frequency resonant circuits/tags: Carney et al (US 5,446,447), Kaijez et al (US 5,510,769).

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasson H. Yoo whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on (571) 272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dmitry Suhol/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

JHY